



Sunday Teaching Guide

Love Your Neighbor, Week 2

October 8, 2023

Bible Texts

- Matthew 22:37-39
- Leviticus 19:33-34
- Luke 10:30-37

Important Terms

- LEVAV: This Hebrew word means "heart."
- NEPHESH: This Hebrew word is normally translated as "soul," but means more like "wholeness of our being."
- ME'OD: This Hebrew word is an adverb that gets translated as "strength" but means "very."

Sermon Notes

- Loving those who look like us, talk and act like us, or have the same values as us seems easy. This seems like loving ourselves. The difficulty comes when we are forced to love those who are different from us.
- Jesus' time was little different from our own: the amount of animosity that people had toward one another was significant. People wanted to justify whom they were called to love and those they did not have to love.
- In another instance, a man asked Jesus who his neighbor was. Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan about a man who had been beaten and left for dead by robbers. A priest and a Levite -- who would have been seen as the man's neighbor -- had passed him by, but a Samaritan -- an enemy of the Jews -- stops to help him in a significant way. The man who heard Jesus' parable had such animosity toward the Samaritans that when Jesus asked him which person was man's neighbor in the story, the man could not even say the word "Samaritan."
- We don't know what happened after this. We don't know how the guy did in his assignment to go and do likewise. But we know that loving God and loving one another is a lifelong task. Everything that we do should come back to this: loving God and loving others.

Reflection Questions

- What do you think it means to have mercy on someone? What is the relationship between having mercy and loving someone?
- Which person do you resonate most with in the parable? Are there different people you resonate with at different times?
- The priest and the Levite walked away from the man attacked by robbers. Can you think of a time in which you walked away from someone who needed love? What happened?
- Can you think of a time in which you went out of your way like the Samaritan to have mercy on and show love for someone? What happened?
- Ryan said that bringing life to our community is dependent on loving God and loving others. What does he mean?
- Ryan said that loving God and loving others is a lifelong journey. What does this mean?
- Ryan said that bringing life to our community is dependent on loving God and loving others. What does he mean?

Prayer for the Week

- God, your son Jesus taught us the importance of loving not only those we are comfortable loving, but everyone that we come in contact with. Send your Holy Spirit into our lives so that we can follow this commandment even when it seems an impossible task. Amen.

Additional Readings

- 1 John 4:18-21
- Romans 13:8-10
- Hebrews 13:1-2